

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ My soul is thirsting for You,
O Lord My God.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans
12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Obedience
is easy
if we know
how to listen***

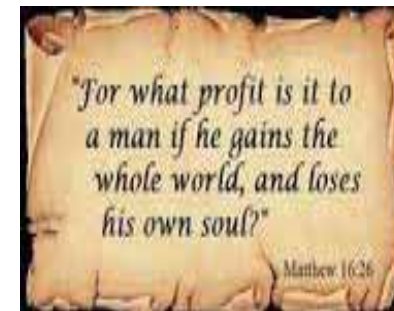


ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A
2nd / 3rd September, 2017

*Heavenly Father,
whose Word burns like a fire within us,
grant us a bold and faithful spirit,
that in Your strength
we may be unafraid to speak Your Word
and follow where You lead.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Both of our readings focus on the cost of obedience to the will of God.

Jeremiah is constantly ridiculed and persecuted for being the bearer of God's Word to the people. His message, and he, are rejected, yet he remains faithful.

In our Gospel for today, Jesus warns his disciples He himself will suffer and even be killed for being faithful to God's message. The focus then shifts to the disciples: those who want to follow Jesus must accept the same cross, the willingness to be faithful, even if it means giving their lives.

What Jeremiah experienced and Jesus died for, the disciples must accept – the world is opposed to the message of God.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd September St Gregory the Great
Friday 8th September Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Alan Fox 9758 1029
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm
Secretaries: Carol Leatham, Carole D'Souza
Accountant: Sara Luk
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Catherine Mason

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Mary Fitz-Gerald

MASS TIMES:
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 7.00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays at 5.15 pm

BAPTISMS:
Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on our Website. Contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 or via email at office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WEDDINGS:
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
2nd / 3rd September, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Graham Milburn
We remember the anniversaries of: Felicia Jayawardena, Ken Collins, Lothar (Bill) Tepass, Primo Scapin (1 month)



The sick – Catherine Turner, Denis Buckley, Therese Edmunds, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Steve Reid, Ron Prince, Patricia Quinn, Charlie Kelly, Bonnie Williams, Kathleen Hatton, Edward Kitain, Scott Warner, Grace Gamley, Lilian Luiyf, Kayden McDevitt, David Merton, Rosa Jones, Peter Mitchell, Jemma Du Buisson Perrine, Lisa Whittaker, Brock McAvaney, Beryl Turner, Bernard Guerin, Michael Byrne, Ann Jayawardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Fran Middlebrook, Miep Wirth, Ethel Arrowsmith, Eillien Patrick, Brendan Kearns, Elsie Johnson, Jill Neville, Maria Iaconis, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Charles Gatt, Allida Serafin, Barbara Kenny, Clive Geach.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE
Date: **Saturday, 7th October, at 10.30 am**
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP
We meet **every Tuesday at 10.15 am** in the Parish Hall for praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Tineke 9763 1096, Judy 9752 2986 or Andrew 9755 2443.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP
Come and join with mothers, grandmothers, spiritual mothers and godmothers, to pray together on **Tuesdays from 9 am to 10 am** during school term in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, contact the office.


FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: Everyone welcome on Thursdays between 10am and 1pm for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all dads this weekend. May your love and gentleness be a blessing upon each member of your family.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION The annual Fathers' Day Appeal for retired priests of the Archdiocese, will be taken up this weekend, at all Masses. Thank you for your continued support.

PLEASE NOTE As Fr Alan will be absent from 5-15th September. there will be no weekday Masses on Tuesday through Friday for the next two weeks. For information regarding weekday Mass times in our neighbouring parishes, please visit: <http://masstimes.melbournecatholic.org.au>

LECTORS' ROSTER A new roster is being prepared for October-December. Could those currently on the roster please notify me if they are unavailable during that period or if there are any other changes. If you would like to be a lector please contact Stephanie on 97585497 or via email: smhorgen@gmail.com **prior to 8th October**. You may consider sharing the role by reading just one of the readings. Students in Years 11 & 12 are welcome to take part in this ministry. Rosters and guidelines will be available on the weekend 23rd/24th October.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
 Collect *Earn & Learn* Stickers by shopping at Woolworths Supermarket and place them in a specially marked Woolworths *Earn & Learn* box in the foyer of the church, or at the parish office.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS Everyone is welcome to the Ordination Mass of Deacons Toan Nguyen and Anil Mascarenhas at 10am on September 9th at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please remember them in your prayers.

'REST, PRAY AND RECREATE' RETREAT WEEKEND at Pallotti College, 80 McNamaras Rd, Millgrove from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September. Cost \$190. Details & Booking: Denis 0427 449 434 or deo.gratias@bigpond.com.

RITE OF WELCOME This weekend we welcome Hudson Trimble, Madden Trimble, Finn Aiden Moore and Luca James Do-Salice.

The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

BAPTISMS – We congratulate the following children, who are being baptised this weekend:



Isabella Rose Vincent-Smith & Evie Cecilia Psaila

MORAL THEOLOGY PUBLIC SEMINARS: JESUIT COLLEGE OF SPIRITUALITY
Saturday 23 September and Thursday 16 November at Jesuit College of Spirituality, 175 Royal Parade, Parkville. Rev. Dr Ai Pham SJ (Dean of Studies) will have three seminars, all of which are open to the general public. September seminar is titled 'The primacy of love in moral theology', from 10am to 12pm, and in November Rev. Dr Pham will lead a seminar titled 'The spiritual exercises and the formation of Christian conscience' from 6pm to 8pm. Details: 9448 8276 or enquiries@jcs.edu.au

FINDING SPIRITUALITY IN OUR TROUBLED WORLD: Christian & Muslim Perspectives lecture at Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street East Melbourne on Tuesday 12th September from 6.30-7.30pm. Free entry. Light refreshments will be offered. To register: <https://findingspirituality.eventbrite.com.au>

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE
September issue is available in the church foyer for \$4 a copy.

AN INVITATION TO AFTERNOON TEA at St Francis Xavier Parish, 1087 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, from 2.00-3.30pm on Sunday 10th September. A unique event to reflect on the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. For more information ring the Parish Office at Box Hill 9890 2231 or email boxhill@cam.org.au

ROSTERS: Monday 4th to Sunday 10th September	
Flowers	Ann & Connie
Altar Servers	6pm: Kiara & Nicholas
Linen	Laurel
Welcomers	6pm: Louise & Peter 9am: Sue, David & Thelma 11am: Kath, Andrew & Maria
Lectors	6pm: Louise 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Sue
Counters	Peter, Dawn, George & Genevieve
Gardeners	Chris & Tom